

Net Control

The Ins and Outs
Of
Standardization



Communications Academy

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Why this Discussion?

- Much emphasis and training is given to net operations and traffic handling; this is the essence of what we are trying to accomplish during emergency operations. The object of this presentation is an attempt to open a dialog and consider whether any “one-size-fits-all” methodology is always the only way to accomplish the mission.

A Brief Review

- Who is qualified to be an NCS?
- Where does the NCS operate?
- How will I learn the skills needed to become a skilled NCS operator?
- Are the skills and training for a NCS operator applicable to multiple organizations and missions?

How do I know if I (or my group) is trying to re-invent the wheel?

- Well, are you?

Evaluate your current procedures

- Take a turn on a weekly team net
- Listen to other nets and how they do it
- Participate in practices and drills
- Participate in debriefings

Who is qualified to be a NCS?

- Training
- Preparation
- Experience
- Radio equipment
- Emergency Power

Message Handling

What it all comes down to

- Proper Format
- Group Counts
- Send to Recipient or via Relay
- Voice
- Data
- Accountability
- Receipts
- Precedence

Is it true that the NCS is always right?

- Rule #1: The NCS is ALWAYS right.
- Rule #2: If NCS is found to be wrong, refer to rule #1 above.

Why Standardization?

- Lessens stress in tough situations.
- Less prone to making errors.

Something to Consider

- A wise man once said: “The bureaucratic mind-set is the only constant in the Universe.”

Okay, it may not have been said by a man, and it may actually have never been said, but it does lend itself to credibility.

Something wrong? What was your first hint?



Oh-oh... Not a good sign. I just keep getting their answering machine.

Activation Basics

- Call the net using the net script or just do it on-the-fly
- Ask for stations to check-in and give traffic count
- Conduct the business of the net in the necessary priority
- If you are not designated NCS, transfer NCS authority when it is convenient

Traffic Sending Resources

- Voice
- Digital
- Method? (Does not have to be Amateur)
 - Ham Runner
 - CB FRS
 - 800 Mhz Courier
 - GMRS Vehicle
 - Telephone SatComm

How to handle traffic

- Flash (Immediate)
- Priority
- Routine
- Health & Welfare
- Is handled ASAP
- Within 24 hours
- Within 24-48 hours
- May never be sent

Is a Standard Format the Best?

- Forms vs Freestyle
- What parts of a message are “must haves”?
 - Message Number and Date/Time Group
 - Precedence
 - Originating Station (Subject to Change)
 - To (Does not Change)
 - From (Does Not Change)
 - Group Check
 - Text

NCS Report Activities

- Complete radio log of all passed traffic
- Informal radio log for tactical or informational transmissions
- Copies of all sent and received traffic
- Any other reports the served agency may require

Closing Down the Net

- When instructed to by the served agency
- When instructed to by ARES, RACES or some other authority

Hints and Kinks

- Tactical vs Amateur Call Signs
 - Tactical usually more useful
 - Amateur ID requirements
 - Need to keep track of personnel
 - Need to identify facilities or locations

Tactical vs Formal Traffic

Not everyone agrees

- Follow requirements of served agency
- Accountability
- Audit trail
- Time considerations
- Operator experience

Open Discussion

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